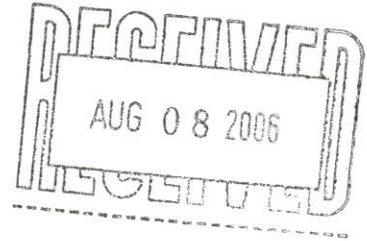




**Department of Energy**  
Western Area Power Administration  
Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region  
P.O. Box 3700  
Loveland, CO 80539-3003



JUL 31 2006

Dear See address list:

Western Area Power Administration (Western), a power marketing agency within the U.S. Department of Energy, is proposing to rebuild the Granby Pumping Plant to Windy Gap 69kV Transmission Line, located near Grand Lake, and the town of Granby, in Grand County, Colorado. The purpose of this letter is to update you on the status of the project and the environmental review process. The enclosed project description and map provide specific details on the proposed project.

Western is the lead Federal agency for the preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project. The project area includes private lands and public lands managed by the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Forest Service, and Grand County. The U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee Grassland, is a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EA.

Western has acquired the services of two environmental contractors: EDAW, Inc., of Fort Collins, Colorado, and RMC, Inc., of Lakewood, Colorado, to conduct studies and evaluate the natural, human, and cultural resources that could potentially be affected by the proposed project.

Specifically, EDAW and RMC will prepare a biological report for the proposed action, perform visual resource analysis, conduct cultural resource inventories, and prepare a stand-alone cultural resource inventory report. The results of the studies, inventories, and evaluations will assist in the planning for the construction of the proposed project. EDAW will also prepare the EA for Western's review.

In preparation for this project, Western solicited in the summer of 2005, comment from the public, agencies and tribes, concerning any interests or issues about the transmission line rebuild project, and the proposed environmental review. In addition, Western held an open house July 28, 2005, in Grand Lake to provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the proposed project and provide comments.

For the past year, Western has been conducting additional engineering and environmental studies in an attempt to address those concerns and issues expressed by the public through the scoping process. Western is planning a second public workshop to be held in November 2006, to present an update on the environmental studies and to further solicit input on the project. Details on the date, location and time for the workshop will be sent to you at a later date.

If you have questions, comments, concerns or would like more information, please contact us at either the address below or the e-mail address provided [GPPWGP@wapa.gov](mailto:GPPWGP@wapa.gov):

NEPA Document Manager, J0420  
Western Area Power Administration  
Rocky Mountain Region  
5555 East. Crossroads Boulevard  
Loveland, Colorado 80539-3003

Thank you for your assistance and participation.

Sincerely,



Joel K. Bladow  
Regional Manager

2 Enclosures